

REMARKS

The following are the remarks submitted via the Amendment of December 6, 2004:

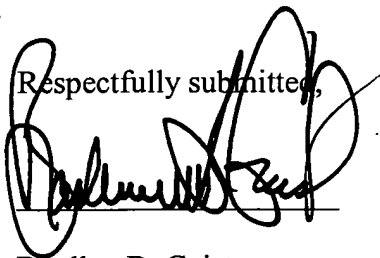
Claims 20-25, 29, 30, 38 and 39 are currently pending. Claims 1-19, 26-28, and 31-37 are now cancelled. Amended claim 20 and new claim 39 are believed to moot the Examiner's observations in the second paragraph on the "Continuation Sheet." Other observations noted by the Examiner are herein rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claims 31-37.

Claim 20 is directed in particular to the provision of band-shaped electrodes with a parabolic or hyperbolic curvature, while claim 39 is directed in particular to the provision of straight electrode sections being arranged for providing the field barrier with the parabolic or hyperbolic curvature. Furthermore, claims 20 and 39 have been adapted for clarifying the direction of curvature relative to the channel walls.

With regard to the Fiedler et al. reference, it fails to disclose band-shaped electrodes with parabolic or hyperbolic curvature as called for in Claim 20. With regard to Claim 39, Fiedler et al. disclose straight electrode sections. However, the field barrier generated with these electrode sections does not have a parabolic or hyperbolic curvature corresponding to the arrangement of the straight electrode section. The curvature of the field barrier shown in Fig. 4A is not caused by the shape of the electrode (or the arrangement of the electrode sections) but rather by the fact that the border of any electrical field does not represent a straight delimitation but any curved transition to zero.

In view of the amendments and remarks are presented herein, Applicants believe that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bradley B. Geist', is written over a horizontal line.

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